

Amendments to the Claims

1–12. (Cancelled)

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method for propagating information in a network comprising:

automatically assigning an index number to an interface;

automatically transmitting said index number **[[on]] using** said interface; and

automatically transmitting said index number **[[on]] using** at least one additional interface, wherein

said interface and said one additional interface are interfaces among a

plurality of interfaces in a circuit switch,

said interface is configured to be coupled to a link,

said circuit switch is configured to store a table, and

said table comprises

an entry indicating a function of said link, and

an entry indicating a predetermined number of contiguous frames that may be transmitted over said link.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 further comprising the act of automatically transmitting said index number on all enabled interfaces in said circuit switch.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said interface and said one additional interface conform to a protocol selected from a group consisting of Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) and Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH).

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 further comprising:
storing said index number in said table, wherein

at least another network element in said network is configured to store said index number in another table.

17. (Previously Presented) A network comprising:
a first circuit switch having a first interface, the first interface having assigned thereto a first identifier;
a second circuit switch having a second interface, the second interface having assigned thereto a second identifier;
a plurality of memory locations in said first circuit switch containing a first table, the first table including each of said first identifier and said second identifier;
a plurality of memory locations in said second circuit switch containing a second table, said second table including each of said first identifier and said second identifier; and
a link coupling said first interface to said second interface, wherein said first table and said second table each comprise
an entry indicating a function of said link, and
an entry indicating a predetermined number of contiguous frames that may be transmitted over said link.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The network of claim 17 wherein said link **includes comprises** a fiber optic cable.

19. (Original) The network of claim 17 wherein said first circuit switch and said second circuit switch use a protocol selected from a group consisting of Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) and Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH).

20-26. (Cancelled)

27. **(Currently Amended)** An article of manufacture comprising:
a computer readable **storage** medium comprising a computer readable program code for propagating information in a network, said computer readable program code in said article of manufacture further comprising computer readable program code for automatically assigning an index **number** to an interface;

computer readable program code for automatically transmitting said **index** number on said interface; and
computer readable program code for automatically transmitting said **index** number on at least one additional interface, wherein
said interface and said one additional interface are interfaces
among a plurality of interfaces in a circuit switch,
said interface is configured to be coupled to a link,
said circuit switch is configured to store a table, and
said table comprises
an entry indicating a function of said link, and
an entry indicating a predetermined number of contiguous frames that may be transmitted over said link.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein
said at least one additional interface is configured to be coupled to another link,
said circuit switch is configured to store another table, and
said another table comprises
another entry indicating a function of said link, and
another entry indicating a predetermined number of contiguous frames
that may be transmitted over said another link.

29. (**Currently Amended**) The **method article of manufacture** of claim 27
wherein
said at least one additional interface is configured to be coupled to another link,
said circuit switch is configured to store another table, and
said another table comprises
another entry indicating a function of said link, and
another entry indicating a predetermined number of contiguous frames
that may be transmitted over said another link.